Serious Flood Situation in Assam

3546. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State of Assam faces a serious flood situation year after year due to Brahmaputra and Barak river;

(b) if so, what specific measures Government have taken during the last few years to contain floods which causes harm to agriculture and loss of lives and property in the State; and

(c) whether Government have any plan is hand in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (c) Yes Sir, Flood Management being a State subject, the flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Govt, themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The assistance rendered by Central Government are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Government of India had set up Bhahmaputra Board for preparation of Master Plan to control floods, bank erosion and improvement of drainage in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys also giving due regard to the development and utilisation of the Water Resources for irrigation, hydropower, navigation and other beneficial use. Accordingly, the Brahmaputra Board undertook preparation of the Master Plan and 34 such Master Plans prepared by the Board have been sent to the State Government for implementation.

ATask Force on Flood management/Erosion Control was set up by the Government of India in August, 2004 which has since submitted its report. The Task force has recommened measures for flood management and suggested immediate and short term measures. The report of the Task Force was sent to the State Government.

In order to assist the Government of Assam and the other North Eastern States, Government of India has approved a scheme amounting to Rs. 150 crore (90% grant and 10% loan) with a share of Rs. 81 crore for Assam for taking up critical flood management/anti erosion works. Out of this Rs. 9.3 crore has already been released to Assam during the year 2004-05 for ongoing schemes. Brahmaputra Board had also executed critical anti erosion schemes worth Rs. 21.91 crore at Dholla Hathighuli &

Majuii island. Another scheme amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore has been approved for the protection of Majuii island. Assistance has also been rendered to Assam in the form of Additional Central Assistance/Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources under which an amount of Rs. 163.94 crore was provided to the State Government since 1998-99 to take up critical Flood Management Schemes.

Per Capita Water Availability

3547. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the national per capita water availability;

(b) the per capita availability of water of each State/UT;

(c) the ideal per capita water requirement; and

(d) steps taken to make more water available in the water scarce region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The annual per capita availability of water, as per population census of 2001 is 1820 cubic metre.

(b) The per capita availability of water has not been assessed State-wise.

(c) The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development in its report has referred to expert studies which ranks countries according to per capita annual water resources (AWR). The classified countries with an AWR per capita of 1,700 cubic metre and above as those where the shortage will be local and rare.

(d) National Water Policy, 2002 provides that water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins. National Perspective Plan for water resources development also envisages inter-basin transfer of water which will make more available in the water scarce region. For conservation and augmentation of water resources, the Ministry of Water Resources has also taken up a pilot scheme on 'National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture'. A scheme on 'Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting' is also under active consideration.